**Language of Question Paper**

†776. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the policy of providing question papers in the language which the students choose for their study, has been implemented in the entire country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that some States are not complying with this policy and due to this, the students are facing great difficulty; and

(d) whether Government would instruct all the States particularly West Bengal to provide question papers in that particular language which the students have opted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), being a National Board, provides question papers for Secondary and Senior Secondary examinations in English and Hindi in all main subjects. In some of the major subjects the question papers are also provided in Urdu medium and in Punjabi for schools situated in Chandigarh.

The State Boards of Examinations follow their own policy.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

**Educational grants to Sikkim**

777. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount granted to Sikkim under various educational schemes during the last three years, scheme-wise, year-wise; and

(b) the details of achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Details of financial assistance provided to Sikkim by the Departments of School Education and Literacy and Higher Education of the Ministry of Human Resource Development under various schemes during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) With the help of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day-Meal Scheme, the State of Sikkim has managed to substantially reduce the number of out of school children at the elementary stage. The dropout rate has been reduced from 8.74% to 0.58% for the primary level and from 9.92% to 3.98% at the Upper Primary level. Under SSA 45 primary/upper primary schools and 48 AIE/EGS Centres have been opened,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.